

THE MORNING NEWS

Your Source for local news in English

Caya G.F. Betico Croes 111 T. 588-9517 F. 5889518.

2014 King and Queen of Dande and "King of Kings" Edjean Semeleer are crowned



L to R: King of Kings Edjean Semeleer, King of Dande Danilo Vrolijk, Minister of Tourism and Culture Otmar Oduber and Queen of Dande Hilyann Croes

ORANJESTAD -- Beginning at 8:00 PM on Saturday evening, December 28, the 40th anniversary Dande Festival and Competition was conducted at Club Caiquetio in Paradera. This ultimate demonstration of Aruba's traditional holiday music, usually performed by wandering minstrels, did not finish until 6:00 AM the following morning. Dande music has a definitive form, and while the beat

and chorus is a welcome to the New Year, the lyrics of the stanzas will often be personalized to describe the households welcoming the roving bands, most commonly with humorous results. It is a beloved part of the performance for the lead vocalist to pass a hat, and each member of the audience shows their appreciation for their performance with a donation.

For this year's Dande Festival,

there were 14 female and 32 male vocalist competing for the titles of Queen and King of Dande 2013, as well as a competition among former winners to select the "King of Kings." Thirteen musical groups provided back-up for the entries.

Aruba's Minister of Tourism, Transport, Culture and Primary Sector, Otmar Oduber, was present at sunrise to crown this year's King and Queen of Dande. The winners were: King Danilo Vrolijk, accompanied by the group Alma Folklorico, and Queen Hilyann Croes, backed by the band Tipico Allegre Kadushi Largo.

Continued on pg 5



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Russia on alert after suicide bombings kill 31

MOSCOW (AFP) - At least 14 people were killed Monday when a suicide bomber blew himself up on a packed trolleybus in Volgograd, raising new concerns about security at the Sochi Olympics a day after a deadly attack on the southern Russian city's train station.

President Vladimir Putin ordered stepped-up security across the country after the trolleybus bombing at the peak of the morning rush and Sunday's suicide attack blamed on a suspected female suicide bomber which claimed 17 lives.

The attacks on Volgograd, which until this year had no record of recent unrest, raised alarm about whether the ongoing anti-Kremlin insurgency in the Northern Caucasus could affect the Sochi Winter Games which open on February 7.

The force of Monday's blast destroyed the number 15A trolleybus, which was packed with early morning commuters and was turned into a tangle of wreckage with only its roof and front remaining.

Health ministry spokesman Oleg Salagai told Russian state television that 14 people were killed and 28 wounded.

Russian investigators have opened a criminal probe into a suspected act of terror as well as the illegal carrying of weapons, the Investigative Committee said.

Olympic security fears

The United States called for closer security cooperation with Russia after the bombings, saying it had offered Russia its full support and warning Americans to stay vigilant.

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Editorial

What are we taking with us into 2014?

The year 2013 is about over, we have made it through another year!

As we look back on 2013, we can't help but acknowledge that it was a rather difficult year for the business world. Our bottom line was far from what we expected or even hoped for. With construction still ongoing in downtown Main Street and people not trafficking the area, sales were very meager and sporadic.

As we look ahead into the unknown of 2014, we can only hope for much better days and a more upbeat economy. What does concern us is that it appears that we will be taking certain things with us into 2014. Things very undesired!

For example, 2013 was replete with automobile theft. In fact, we might say that automobile theft was unprecedented during 2013. Everything indicates that this situation has remained unabated and that we will be taking that phenomenon with us into 2014! The authorities have done little to stem the tide on auto thefts; hence, we will face the same situation in the new year.

Another feature to expect in 2014 is the situation with Valero. So much has been said in 2013 about a possible reopening, but as we close the year everything remains status quo.

Hence, we will hear more of the same in 2014. Perhaps the best advice to stop the speculations is to simply wait until the matter is in truth and fact a done deal to announce any new situation.

Are we taking solar energy at the current high cost for individual homes with us into 2014, or are we going to reduce the cost of purchase



and installation in the New Year? All the incentives available have not really benefited those who most want this service.

Thank God, AOV has been saved and we need not take that dilemma with us

into 2014! We understand that the Green Corridor is on the agenda for 2014...that is, indeed, good news! Renovation and expansion of our Hospital is also on the agenda and is great news for 2014. We do look forward to a good

year and should welcome 2014 with open arms.

The Main Street is completed and we should see more traffic and expect better sales in 2014.

THE MORNING NEWS looks back and is grateful for

the support of so many of our local businesses and faithful readers. We could not have done it without you! Thanks for your kind support. We are grateful for our many faithful readers who have responded positively with comments and advice over the past year. Let's join together with optimism and a spirit of responsibility for what lies ahead in 2014...and make it the best year ever!

Happy New Year and may God's blessings accompany you through out the year!



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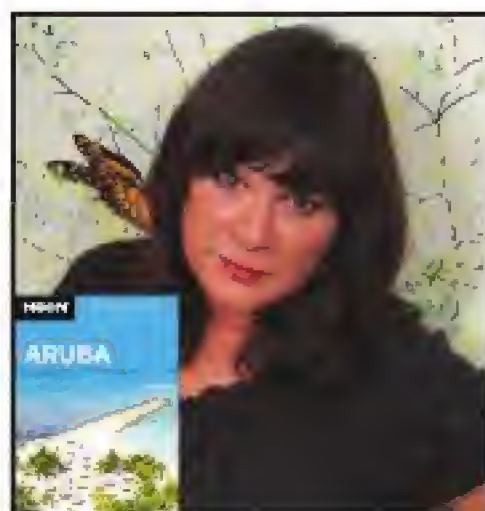
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Reflections 2013 - Evaluating the pros and cons of island life, a personal view



By Rosalie Klein

As I mature, I have come to use a phrase with greater frequency: "The more I learn, the less I know." As a member of the news media, with our antennae always poised to absorb the latest happening and commentary, I find this is particularly true when reflecting on the many events of the past year, both local and internationally.

This year, Aruba had the drama of national elections. Prior to that date, I had endless discussions with various experts on the economy and social topics, yet the results proved they were very much out of touch with the feelings of the voting public. Whether you chalk up the historic AVP victory to an overwhelming vote of confidence or party loyalties following some opposition candidates joining their party, even without that extra seat, Arubans were saying they like the steps the current administration has taken over the last four years.

As much as we grumbled over all the roadwork and inconvenience, it must be admitted the beautification of Oranjestad has been noted by

visitors and they report they are quite impressed. Particularly those who have been vacationing on the island for decades and truly see the difference from when they first began visiting Aruba.

There will always be a few who will bemoan the changes in the sleepy little island they originally discovered, but from my interaction and interviewing regular visitors, I have found that is not the majority reaction. The holiday shopping season found the completed main street again vibrantly active with families coming to enjoy the festive ambiance and beautifully finished sidewalks. Small restaurants scattered throughout the town that held on and weathered the renovations, are again bustling with business.

Many visitors forget that Aruba is a country and society beyond the glamorous fairy lands of the resorts. It has its social and economic issues to deal with, much like any community in the world. Being an island of eternal summer does not solve all problems, resulting in a paradise where everything is absolutely perfect. Taken within the context of being a Caribbean nation, Aruba has far surpassed its neighbors in regards to the standard of living, cleanliness, and hospitality. This summation comes from the commentary and assessment of thousands who have traveled extensively through the region.

In striving to maintain this high standard of living, there

is bound to be changes. Aruba can not remain an aloof little dot on the map, it must be part of a global community and economy to continue to grow and prosper. "Think globally and act locally," has become a very popular catch phrase during lectures and presentations.

On the other side of the argument, is the lack of innovation and creatively demonstrated by local entrepreneurs and investors. It would appear that too many new enterprises do not fully explore what is lacking in services or retail, or their potential existing competition. Restaurants are opening and closing within a year. Certainly, one look at the harbor area will convince any potential new business owner that the island is oversaturated with jewelry shops. Their owners complain about business, citing the government needs to bring more cruise ships or attract vacationers to Oranjestad to shop, but shouldn't they first examine their decision to open yet another superfluous store? Why are they surprised when it is such a battle to compete with the many established shops who have worked for decades to build their clientele and word of mouth reputation? More imagination is certainly needed in the area of commerce, and our Chamber of Commerce and a number of governmental agencies have made an effort to encourage this. After over three decades of living on Aruba, visitors are always telling me

"you must love it." Of course, I am not sitting on a beach all day sipping an exotic frozen cocktail. This is great for a week or two, but would bore me silly within days. I usually have a standard answer, "Yes, it is beautiful...I do love that. It is a simpler life, and that suits me. One must become accustomed to the fact that we usually cannot find what we need and want...when we need it and want it, but you make do." We learn to be adaptable, and to do without what many might consider necessities...such as still washing dishes by hand, as the larger percentage of island homes do not have dishwashers, even in this day and age.

What do I get in return for chapped hands? I can still freely walk my dog on the beach every evening to enjoy a stunning sunset, only minutes from my house. The drivers may be a little crazy at times, but I do not require snow tires, chains and rarely deal with slick roads or having to dig myself out of my driveway. I will not be trapped our lose electricity due to an ice storm. These are the physical benefits.

I feel a part of a diverse community, with friends from every part of the world. Wherever I go, every day, I run into someone who greets me warmly, usually with a hug and kiss.

Continued on pg 5

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It's official: Fakkel is the 2nd Saturday of January



ORANJESTAD -- Traditionally the first activity after the closing of the old year, is the so-called "Fakkel Optocht." This event will not take place the first Saturday of the new year as usual.

President of the Carnival Foundation announced last Friday that they have decided to schedule the event for the second week of January, that is January 11th, 2014.

The first event of Carnival 60 will be the Jumbie Jump In, which will take place on the grounds of the San Nicolaas Bus Station on Saturday,

January 4th. SAC has indicated that all groups that still have space is invited to take registrations for their "Fakkel" group.

They plan to have excellent music and all Prins and Panchos are invited to participate with their group and fans to mark the first steps of our grand diamond celebration, celebrating Aruba's grandest cultural fiesta will be present!

The "Jumbie Jump In" is planned to begin at 8 p.m. in the evening in San Nicolaas.

Wishing you a Happy New Year

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Hospital Emergency service well prepared for holidays, and wishes the Aruban community a safe New Year

ORANJESTAD -- Aruba Hospital, IMSAN and the Ambulance service are well prepared for the busy holidays. Traditionally these are busy days for the Emergency Service and for the Ambulance.

Imelda de Palm, Head nurse at the Hospital has assured us that they are well prepared and that colleagues are ready to offer extra assistance at any moment during the festive days ahead.

De Palm has advised that we take care of how we eat and our medical regimen, if

any. With respect to children and the elderly, we must ensure that they eat on time. Don't let children eat or drink in excess, especially sweet items to avoid stomach cramps. Every year that has been a recurring problem.

Persons with Diabetes must be sure to take their medicines as prescribed by their doctor. If you drink, do not drive and look out for children, says Imelda de Palm.

On January 2nd all doctors offices will be closed, hence patients can go to the Doc-

tors' Clinic at the Hospital for any necessary medical care.

The Head nurse also requested patients to be patient when they come to the Emergency Room. Each case must be evaluated to determine its urgency. Doctors may be very busy with a particular case and you may have to wait for a spell.

Staff and personnel of the Hospital and IMSAN wish everyone delightful festive days, and to celebrate Christmas 2013 and the new year as safely as possible and in good company!



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Dear Friends,

One of the real joys of the Holiday Season is the opportunity to say thank you, wishing you and your family a New Year of Happiness and Success and hoping we continue our cooperation through many more wonderful years ahead

Happy New Year!!!



From: THE MORNING NEWS TEAM

2014 King and Queen of Dande...

Continued from pg 1



Coming in second and third place in the Dande King competition were Jason Kelly and Robert Maduro, second and third for the queen crown were Haidy Boekhoudt and Marlene van der Linde.

Noted island vocalist Ed-jean Semeleer, a former Dande King in the years 2004 and 2011, competed against other winners from previous years to be named "King of Kings" of Dande.

A number of traditional, beloved compositions were performed, but also original, new songs were presented, further keeping this end of the year ritual alive. First place award for original composition went to: "Chopi Cho", by composer/singer Chicho Kock, with Tuyo

Herrera, accompanied by the band Tipico Macuarima. Second place trophy went to: "Rey di Mundo", written and composed by Robert Maduro, and Mark Maduro, and sung by Ruth Gaarie, with band Alma Folklorico. Third place for an original song was won by "Tiro di Fin di Aña", composer/arranger Mario Kelly Jr. It was performed by Darwin Gomez and the band Sonido di Antaño.

Besides the standard of Dande songs, there were awards for groups performing another regional music form of the ABC island, Tumba. First Place winner was: "Luz di Shelo na bo Porta" composed, arranged and performed by Danilo Vrolijk and Mark Maduro.

The first place winner of the Best Performed Traditional Music was "Fiesta Anima," a tumba by noted composer Juan Chabaya "Padu Lampe, performed by Tipico Macuarima. The waltz by Rufo Wever, "Aruba," performed by the group La Bomba, took second place, and another tumba, "Dalila," by Egregino Ras and performed by the group Tipico Flamboyen, won third place.

By Rosalie Klein

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Reflections 2013 - Evaluating the pros and cons of island life...

Cont. from pg 3

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I am daily exposed to unique cultural influences that continually teach me something new, whether from Aruba, Latin America, other islands or Europe. Aruba may be a tiny island in the Caribbean, but it has visitors from around the globe, as well as large expatriate communities from China, India and the Philippines, to name only a few of the more exotic, which interact and enrich their island brethren.

Most importantly, living on the island allowed me to successfully embark on a career in journalism and photography at a time that many would consider "late in life." I have absolutely no doubt I would never have had such a chance back in the U.S. If pressed to give one single answer to why Aruba has been good for me, I would say "It has given me the most interesting life I could possibly have had."

On a less personal note, one thing I have observed over the past year regarding the news, is that when it comes to almost any major issue, be it religion, politics, economics, the "Big Bang,"

and origins of man, each side will have their experts to rebut opposing theories and opinions- it is rather like watching courtroom litigation. After awhile, it is just about as interesting, too. Yet the unending discussion continues. There are plenty of things to complain about, and those who will be happy to do so. Criticism is healthy, we should never be blindly accepting of any and all administrative decisions. However, I really do not wish to hear them unless they are accompanied by some constructive ideas for solutions. This is the necessary, productive approach to existing ills; one that more of us need to cultivate.

When making our new year's resolutions, one that is paramount is accepting our personal responsibility for bettering our community. JFK said it well "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country," perhaps with substituting the word "community" for country. For Aruba, they are very much one and the same.

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Russia on alert...

Continued from pg 1

National Security Council spokeswoman Caitlin Hayden said Washington "would welcome the opportunity for closer cooperation for the safety of the athletes, spectators, and other participants".

IOC head Thomas Bach condemned the attacks but said he was confident security would be solid at the Olympics.

"The Olympic Games are about bringing people from all backgrounds and beliefs together to overcome our differences in a peaceful way," he said.

UN leader Ban Ki-moon and the UN Security Council said they were "outraged" by the latest attack, while German Chancellor Angela Merkel also condemned the attacks.

Putin ordered security stepped up across Russia, with a special regime to be imposed in Volgograd, which lies 690 kilometres (425 miles) northeast of the Black Sea resort of Sochi, the national anti-terror committee announced.

Federal Security Service (FSB) chief Alexander Bortnikov flew to Volgograd and asked citizens to be understanding about the extra security that may involve spot checks.

"It is a necessary measure," he said.

Russia is already preparing to impose a "limited access" security cordon around Sochi from January 7 which will check all traffic and ban

all non-resident cars from a wide area around the city.

The head of the Russian Olympic Committee, Alexander Zhukov, said that there was no need for extra security measures in Sochi as "everything that is necessary has already been done", ITAR-TASS reported.

The search for the perpetrators is expected to focus on Russia's largely Muslim North Caucasus region where Islamist militants have for years been fighting the Russian security forces.

Doku Umarov, the leader of militants seeking to impose an Islamist state throughout Russia's North Caucasus, has ordered rebels to target civilians outside the region and disrupt the Games.

"This looks like the North Caucasus underground. They promised to stage acts in big Russian cities ahead of the Olympics. It seems they are fulfilling their promise," military affairs commentator Pavel Felgenhauer told AFP.

Hitting the Russian heartland

Moscow city hall's security chief Alexei Mayarov said precautions would be stepped up in the capital ahead of New Year, the biggest holiday of the year in Russia and traditionally marked by mass outdoor gatherings.

Reports said Russia's second city of Saint Petersburg had already cancelled its planned New Year fireworks display.



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Journalist deaths rise to 70 in 2013: watchdog

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The number of journalists killed worldwide this year has risen to 70, including eight who lost their lives in the unusually deadly month of December, a US-based watchdog said Monday.

Syria was the deadliest assignment, resulting in 28 deaths this year, CPJ said. Ten journalists were killed in Iraq, including five in December alone.

The updated figures include the deadly December bombing of an Iraqi TV sta-

tion, and additional killings in Iraq, Syria and India.

The toll is based on what CPJ calls "a rigorous research process" to verify whether journalists were killed as a direct result of their work.

The toll as it stands now is down slightly from 74 in 2012. But CPJ is still investigating the 2013 deaths of 25 more journalists to establish whether they were work-related.

More than a third of the journalists were killed in combat or crossfire, while 20 percent died during some

other type of dangerous assignment.

At least 63 journalists have perished covering the civil war in Syria since it broke out in 2011.

The third deadliest country for journalists in 2013 was Egypt with six deaths, followed by Pakistan with five, Somalia with four, India, the Philippines and Brazil with three each and Russia and Mali with two each. Turkey, Bangladesh, Colombia and Libya each saw one journalist death, CPJ said.

'Core' Al-Qaeda not behind Benghazi attack: US

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States is still investigating last year's attack on its diplomatic mission in Benghazi but has no evidence that "core Al-Qaeda" leaders directed the assault in which four Americans died, a US official said Monday.

State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf said, however, that some of the militants who carried out the deadly operation on September 11, 2012 may "have taken inspiration from Al-Qaeda ideology."

She was speaking after the New York Times published a lengthy investigation which found no evidence that the Al-Qaeda network had direct involvement in the attack, in which ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans were killed.

Militants stormed the mission in Benghazi, eastern Libya, before later attacking a nearby CIA annex. Local leaders interviewed by the Times report blamed local fighters for the assault, which roiled the 2012 US presidential elections.

Republicans have repeatedly accused Democratic President Barack Obama's of trying to cover-up the real events of attack, after then US ambassador to the United Nations Susan Rice said the assault was the result of a "spontaneous" protest against an inflammatory anti-Islamic video.

The Times also found that anger at the video, entitled "Innocence of Muslims" which had already sparked demonstrations in other Arab nations, "motivated the initial attack."

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Petrobras in \$1.6bn offshore selloff to Shell, Videsh

RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) - Brazilian state oil giant Petrobras said Monday it had sold Shell and India's ONGC Videsh its 35 percent stake in the Parque das Conchas offshore project for \$1.636 billion.

Petrobras said the deal followed through on an August agreement with Anglo Dutch Shell and ONGC Videsh, the overseas unit of India's biggest oil explorer, to sell off its stake in the "BC-10" zone, compris-

ing five fields located in the south-east Campos Basin area.

The deal was approved by Brazilian regulatory authorities.

"Shell and ONGC Videsh have exercised their pre-emption rights for the retrospective acquisition of 23 percent (for Shell) and 12 percent (for ONGC Videsh) of the Petrobras stake," the Brazilian giant said in a statement.

The Parque das Conchas blocs produced an average of

8,600 barrels per day in 2013, Petrobras added.

Last month Petrobras sold off its Peruvian subsidiary to China's CNPC for \$2.6 billion as part of a \$9.9-billion program of divestments.

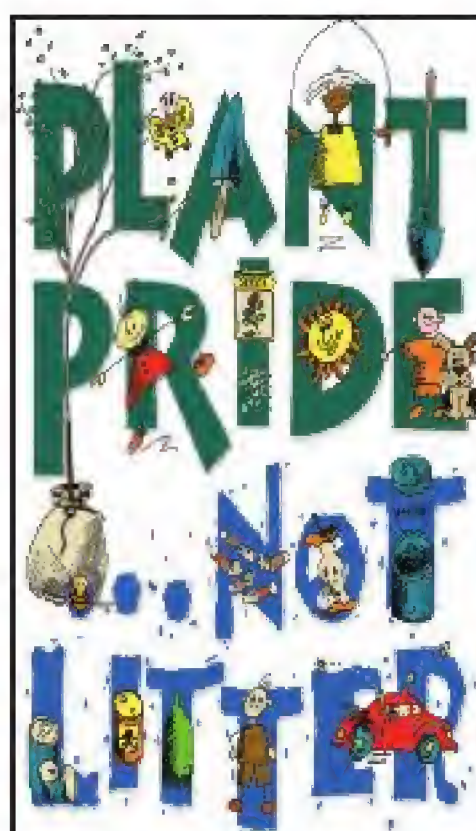
The company wants to concentrate its 2013-2017 plans on tapping huge deepwater 'pre-salt' deposits off the country's Atlantic coast.

Though gearing up for the pre-salt bonanza -- the deposits buried beneath several kilome-

ters of ocean, bedrock and hot salt beds may hold up to 100 billion barrels of high-quality recoverable crude -- Petrobras has seen its share price buffeted.

Its price has slumped 34 percent in 2013 over production falloffs and also a government policy of subsidizing fuel, hitting the firm's profitability.

The fall off has seen the oil giant's market capitalization slide from \$124.7 billion to \$90.5 billion.





Gobierno *di* Aruba



Gabinete Mike Eman II ta yama aña 2014 un caluroso Bon Bini yena di speransa, positivismo y alegria

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Gabinete Mike Eman II





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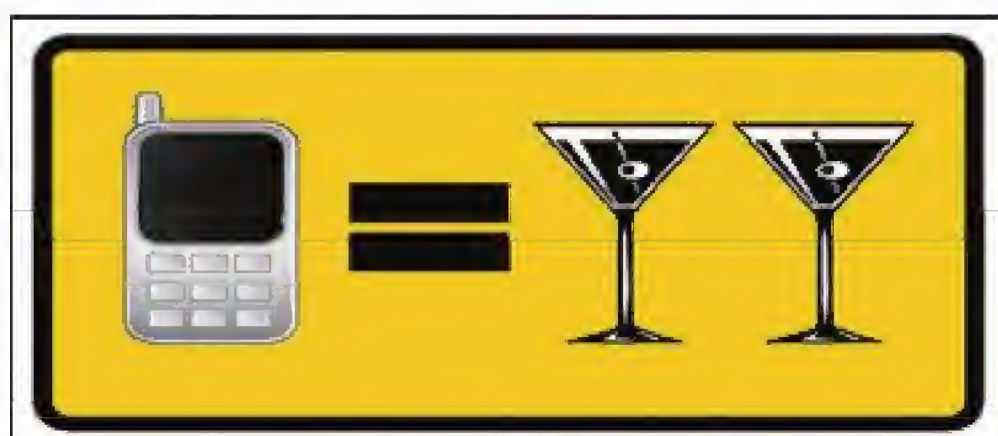
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2014

 —BAN KI-MOON
UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

Alhambra Casino is in full preparation for 2014

PUNTA BRABO - Alhambra Casino is preparing for end of the year 2013 and welcome 2014 with its traditional Balloon Drop event. During this week, marketing team together with maintenance, slot, cashier, housekeeping, security, food and beverage y accounting, all get together to blow more than 3500 balloons and put them in nets hanging in the casino pit from one point to the other. There are many great prizes hidden in these balloons, such as weekend stay, cash, downloadable credits, dinners, baskets and much more. On December 31 at 11.45pm all casino operations will stop for around half an hour. Friends and family can join the Alhambra employees outside to say goodbye to year 2013 and look at the fireworks all around the island. Then everybody is welcome in the casino for a champagne toast and Happy New Year wishes. At exactly 1am we will lose the two nets and all the balloons will fall on the casino floor. Catch one of these balloons, break it and see if you are one of the lucky winners of the fabulous prizes hidden in the balloons. We want to express our sincere gratitude to the many businesses that have cooperated with the balloon drop of this year. Without their help and cooperation the balloon drop would have been not possible. Your gestures are well appreciated. A special Thank you goes also to our surrounding resorts with their cooperation. Alhambra casino takes this opportunity to say thank you to entire Aruban community, our loyal visitors from around the world and all the employees for their support during 2013. There are more surprises coming up in 2014. Thank you for choosing Alhambra as your favorite casino.





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Authors Guild appeals ruling in Google Books case

NEW YORK (AFP) - The Authors Guild is appealing a US judge's decision in a long-running case that cleared legal obstacles for Google's massive book-scanning project, court documents showed Monday.

The group filed a notice of appeal in the case following a November 14 ruling by Federal Judge Denny Chin.

Arguments are to be filed at a later date with the Second Circuit Court of Appeals in

New York.

The guild vowed to appeal the case after Chin ruled that Google's project is "fair use" under copyright law because it provides vital educational and other public benefits.



The case, which dates back to 2005, centers on a Google program started in 2004 to create an electronic database of books that could be searchable by keywords.

Google has scanned more than 20 million books so far in the project. Books in the public domain -- without current copyrights -- are made avail-

able online to the public for free. For copyrighted books, Google offers a searchable database that displays snippets of text.

Google has long argued that its program is in compliance with copyright law and acts like a "card catalog for the digital age."



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Dow edges to new record as other indices stall

NEW YORK (AFP) - The Dow Jones Industrial Average Monday kicked off a holiday-shortened week with a new record high, even as the other two indices stalled in sluggish trade.

At the closing bell, the Dow jumped 25.62 (0.16 percent) to 16,504.03, its fourth record close in the last five sessions.

The broad-based S&P 500 slipped 0.32 (0.02 percent) to 1,841.08, while the tech-rich

Nasdaq Composite gave up 2.40 (0.06 percent) at 4,154.20.

"With a lot of people out, it probably will be a fairly quiet week," said William Lynch, director of investment at Hinsdale Associates.

The Dow has risen about four percent since the US Federal Reserve announced on December 18 that it plans to scale back its stimulus in January.

With so many investors out and not many major economic releases this week, "there will be a lot of consolidation," Lynch predicted. "The market won't go much higher."

US pending home sales rose 0.2 percent in November, the first rise in five months, but below the 1.5 percent increase projected by analysts.

Economic releases later this week include reports on home prices and consumer confidence.

Venezuela says inflation hits 56% but slows year-end

CARACAS (AFP) - Venezuela's inflation soared to 56.2 percent in 2013 but slowed in the last two months of the year after the socialist government forced stores to cut prices, officials said Monday.

The national consumer price index decelerated from 5.1 percent in October to 4.8 percent in November and 2.2 percent in December, the central bank said in a report that was



20 days late.

President Nicolas Maduro said the figures led to annual inflation of 56.2 percent -- the highest in Latin America -- which he blamed on a "parasitic capitalist economy."

"If Venezuela was not subjected to this economic war, we would have single-digit inflation, not 56 percent," Maduro told a news conference.

The previous annual inflation estimate was 54.3 percent.

Maduro ordered appliance stores in November to slash prices, sent troops to enforce the move and threatened to arrest store owners who refused to comply.

Analysts attribute the nation's high inflation to rigid currency and price controls that were launched in 2003 by late president Hugo Chavez, who died in March this year.

Turkey 'takes \$100 billion hit' from political turmoil

ANKARA (AFP) - The political crisis engulfing Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan has cost the economy \$100 billion, a top official said Monday, as financial markets rebounded from a massive freefall.

Deputy Prime Minister Bulent Arinc also fired off a new salvo against a powerful group that the government charges is behind a sweeping corruption probe that has shaken the very core of Erdogan's administration.

He said the government was working on a legal plan against judges and prosecutors accused of wrongdoing or abuse of power -- a reference to the movement headed by influen-

tial US-based cleric and former ally Fethullah Gulen.

He said the graft probe was a "plot aimed at tarnishing Turkey's prestige at home and abroad", a frequent government refrain since the scandal erupted two weeks ago.

"We are talking about damage of over \$100 billion," Arinc said after Erdogan hosted his first cabinet meeting since a major reshuffle last week forced by the resignation of three ministers over the probe.

Turkey had been seen as a model of democracy in the Muslim world and an emerging economic power but the crisis sent its currency and shares plunging.

However, the lira rallied to 2.1239 against the dollar Monday after hitting a record low of 2.17 last week as Erdogan

faced mass protests and growing calls to resign.

The Istanbul stock exchange surged 6.42 percent.

Erdogan, struggling to keep his grip on power after 11 years as the country's almost unassailable strongman, has vowed he would survive what he has branded a "dirty" plot to try to topple him.

A string of public figures including high-profile businessmen and the sons of three ministers were rounded up on December 17 over allegations of bribery for construction projects as well as illicit money transfers to sanctions-hit Iran.

Local media reports have also suggested his son Bilal may face investigation.

The government has suggested that Gulen loyalists, who wield considerable influ-

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

B	A	S	S	W	I	D	E
S	T	A	P	L	E	I	R
L	O	R	E	A	L	N	I
O	R	R		T	E	R	E
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S	H	E	E	R	M	A	T
	N	O	G		P	O	R
F	A	D	E	R	S	M	O
P	U	C	E	I	C	I	C
H	E	R		D	O	N	A
I	L	E	S	S	W	A	T

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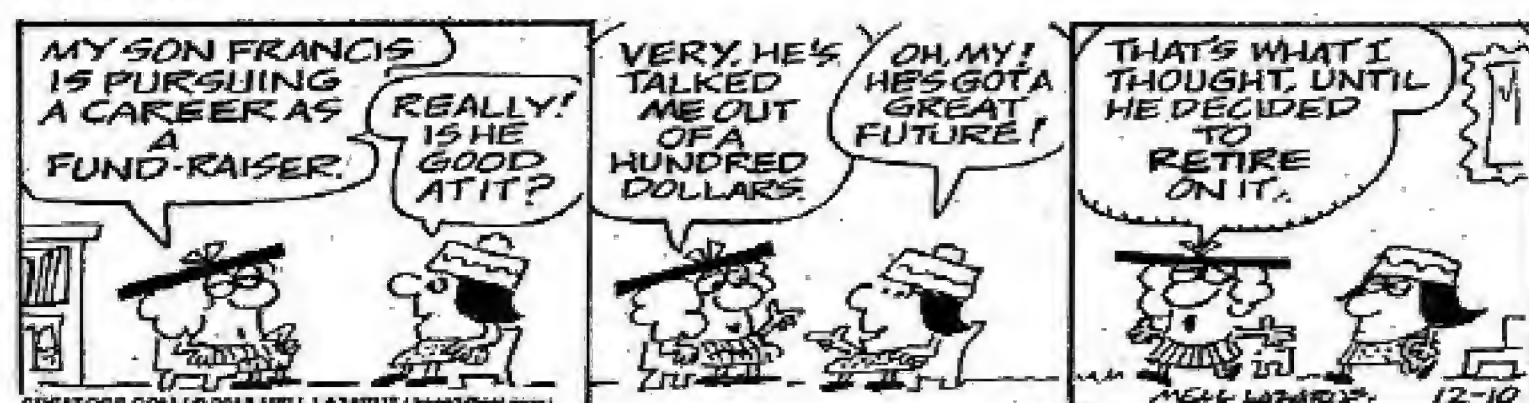
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ACROSS

- 1 Bowling term
6 Broadcast watchdog agcy.
9 "Gun-smoke" marshal
10 Retiree's acct.
11 Glossy coating
12 Songbird
14 Drama divisions
15 Meeting schedule
17 Music's ___ Speed-wagon
18 Strike
19 "Here ___ again!" (2 wds.)
20 Paid for the gang
24 Finger-to-lips noise
27 Fir tree
28 "Begone!"
29 Top aviators
30 Break out

32 Actress

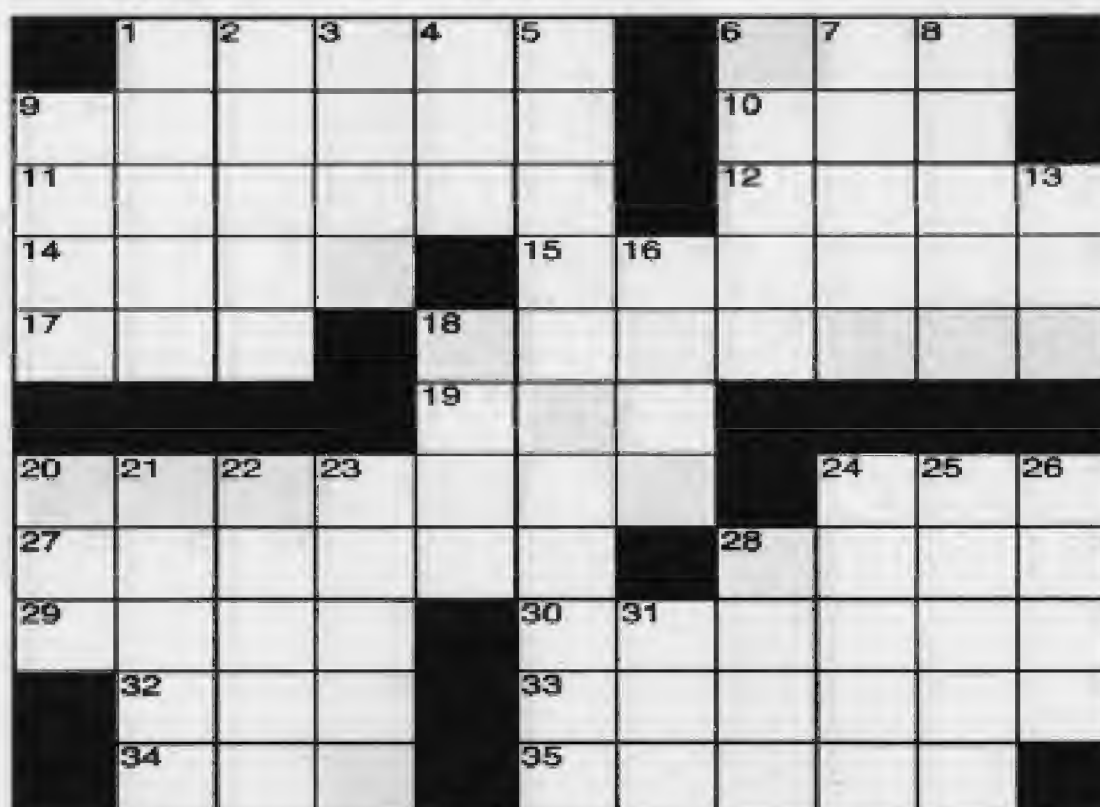
- Arden
33 Approached
34 Home (abbr.)
35 Subdued
DOWN
1 From that time
2 Greek philosopher
3 Charity
4 Caviar base
5 Photographer's

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- blowup
6 ___ of sole
7 Hoisting device
8 Tarots
9 Letter greeting
13 Kit ___ Club ("Caba-ret")
16 Better than okay
18 Mideast bread
20 Schedule abbr.

- 21 Speedway competitor
22 French student
23 Donkeys
24 Partake
25 Remained optimistic
26 Did farm work
28 Shell game, e.g.
31 Watery expanse



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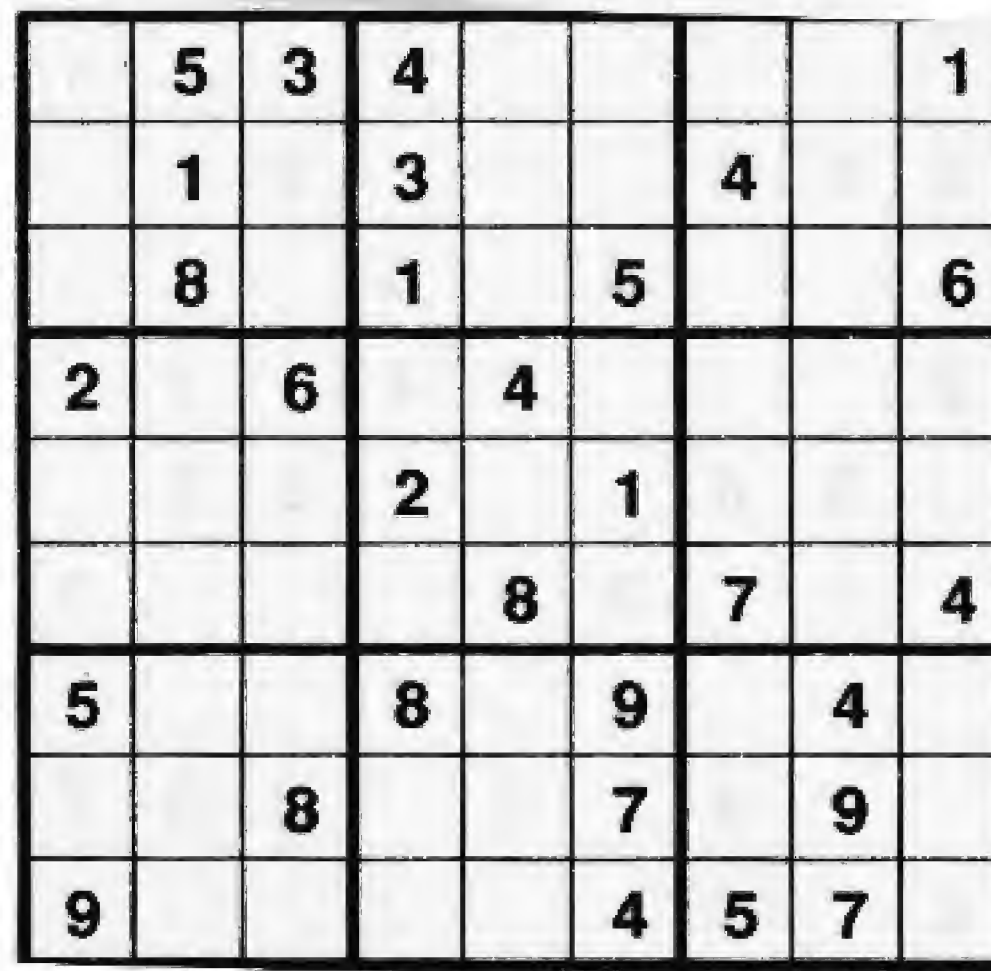
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

8	4	5	7	6	9	1	2	3
2	6	9	1	5	8	7	3	4
6	7	1	8	2	3	4	9	5
7	2	1	9	8	6	5	3	4
5	1	8	6	7	2	9	3	4
9	2	5	1	6	8	7	4	3
1	5	7	8	6	3	2	9	4
1	8	8	2	9	7	6	5	4

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

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5 Burgers Aruba: Now your best breakfast bargain!



Delicious Breakfast

--A favorite stop for a great burger for lunch or dinner has just expanded their hours and menu to offer some of the best breakfast bargains to be found in Palm Beach. Owners Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on para-

dise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. The couple's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu from an internationally known franchise with a "5", which now includes breakfast.

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," believes Aaron. Upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy, made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

However, beginning at 8am, patrons can now order 2

eggs any style (omelets with 3 fillings are \$7.99) and toast for a price of only \$4.99 or All You Can Eat Pancakes for \$6.99! A new plate called the "Home Run" comes with 2 eggs, bacon or sausage, 2 pancakes, toast & home fries - for only \$9.99! Best of all - unlimited coffee or tea - that is, refillable and never ending is only \$.79! Breakfast is served from 8am until noon. Famous for their fries made from fresh potatoes, Aaron has been working for months on devising the most irresistible home fries recipe, chunky and tender with skins still on; after much testing and tasting, he got the thumbs up from his harshest critic, Rosie; so this is another treat you have to try.

A glance at their burger menu will certainly tempt you to return for lunch or dinner, to sample their famous specialty items such as the Gouda, Farmer's or Man Burger (almost 12 ounces of choice

beef), and a Western Burger with Aarons' secret-recipe crispy onion rings. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jala-peño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato...whatever, the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.



5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of fries is enough to be shared by two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to

make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!"

Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

5 Burgers is now open early until 10-ish Sunday-Thursday; and until 3am on Friday & Saturdays.

Delivery is available to most Hotels and most beaches! Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic,

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Schumacher still fighting for life after France ski accident -

GRENOBLE (AFP) - Michael Schumacher, the greatest champion in the history of Formula One, was in a coma fighting for his life on Monday after sustaining serious head injuries in a skiing accident in the French Alps. The German racing legend was helicoptered off a mountain in the upmarket Meribel resort Sunday after falling and slamming his head on a rock while skiing off-piste with his 14-year-old son. News of the accident stunned the Formula One community and racing stars joined German Chancellor Angela Merkel and legions of fans in expressing their hopes for his recovery. Doctors at the hospital in the southeastern city of Grenoble where Schumacher is being treated said on Monday their famous patient was fighting for his life. Doctors said it was too early to say whether Schumacher, who is due to turn 45 on January 3, would pull through.

BRIEFS:



DOHA (AFP) - Germany's Tobais Kamke returns the ball to Tunisia's Malek Jaziri during their match in Qatar's ExxonMobil Open in Doha yesterday.



MECHELEN (AFP) - Germany's Daniel Deusser and his horse Cornet d'Amour celebrate after winning the 'Vlaanderen's Kerstjumper - Memorial Eric Wauters' FEI World Cup Jumping in Mechelen on Friday.



MADRID (AFP) - Betis' Cedrik (L) scores past Levante's Keylor Navas (R) during the second match of the "Champions for Life" charity game organized by the Professional Football Association (LFP) and the Spanish UNICEF committee at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid yesterday.











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Packers, Chargers, Saints, Eagles take playoff spots

CHICAGO (AFP) - Aaron Rodgers threw a 48-yard touchdown pass to Randall Cobb with 38 seconds remaining Sunday to give Green Bay a 33-28 victory at Chicago and a National Football League playoff berth.

The Packers joined the New Orleans Saints, San Diego Chargers and Philadelphia Eagles in claiming playoff spots on the final day of the regular season.

Philadelphia beat Dallas 24-22 in a head-to-head battle for the NFC East division crown and a playoff spot, while New Orleans secured a post-season position with a 42-17 rout of Tampa Bay and San Diego edged Kansas City 27-24 in overtime to seal a playoff berth.

Rodgers, who missed the past seven games with a broken collarbone suffered in a



loss to Chicago last month, connected with wide-open Cobb, who had been out for more than two months with a knee injury, to convert a third consecutive fourth-down play on the winning drive.

The Bears saw their season end on an interception off a desperation pass on the game's final play as the Packers took the NFC North division title.

In the American Conference, Denver captured home-field advantage throughout the playoffs with a 34-14 romp at Oakland in which Peyton Manning set single-season NFL pass yardage and touchdown records and the Broncos finished with a one-season NFL record 606 points.

New England joined Denver with a first-round bye after defeating Buffalo 34-20.

In the National Conference, Seattle beat St. Louis 27-9 to

secure a home-field playoff edge and first-round bye, while NFC South champion Carolina clinched a bye as well with a 21-20 win at Atlanta.

Next weekend's American Conference playoff openers will find Kansas City at Indianapolis and San Diego at Cincinnati, where the Bengals are unbeaten this season and seeking their first playoff win since 1990.

In the National Conference next weekend, New Orleans will visit Philadelphia and San Francisco will travel to Green Bay.

Philadelphia led Dallas 17-16 late in the third quarter, but the Cowboys' denied the Eagles on a fourth-down run from the 1-yard line.

But on the next Eagles possession, Bryce Brown scored on a 6-yard touchdown run around left end, giving

Philadelphia a 24-16 edge with 6:09 to play.

The Cowboys, guided by Kyle Orton after Tony Romo was sidelined after surgery Friday on a herniated disk, answered on a 32-yard touchdown pass from Orton to Dez Bryant, but when a two-point conversion pass failed, Dallas still trailed 24-22 with 3:50 to play.

The Eagles were forced to punt to Dallas but Brandon Boykin intercepted an Orton pass to end the last Cowboys threat.

It marked the third consecutive season the Cowboys had reached a season-ending game where the winner made the playoffs and the loser was out. Dallas lost all three.

Manning, the Broncos' 37-year-old quarterback, threw for 266 yards and four touchdowns in the first half at Oakland then sat out the second half.

Manning finished with 5,477 passing yards, one more than the old mark set by Drew Brees of New Orleans in 2011, and 55 passing touchdowns, adding four to the record he set last week, the old mark being 50 by New England's Tom Brady in 2007.

Four teams chased the final American Conference berth

with Pittsburgh beating Cleveland 20-7 to force San Diego to win or miss the playoffs.

The host Steelers improved to 8-8, avoiding their first losing season since 2003, but needed losses by Miami, Baltimore and San Diego to reach the playoffs.

Reigning Super Bowl champion Baltimore was eliminated with a 34-17 loss at Cincinnati, the Ravens missing the playoffs for the first time since 2007.

Miami lost 20-7 at home to the New York Jets, leaving both teams 8-8 and out of the playoffs on tie-breakers.

Jets owner Woody Johnson said after the game he would keep Rex Ryan as coach of the team next season.

That left the Chargers needing only a draw against the Chiefs, who benched most of their starters having already clinched a playoff berth.

San Diego trailed by 10 points in the fourth quarter before pulling level at 24-24 on Nick Novak's 22-yard field goal with 3:21 to play and winning on Bovak's 36-yard field goal in overtime.

Tennessee beat Houston 16-10, ensuring the defeated Texans the top pick in next year's NFL Draft after a league-worst 2-14 season.

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NFL: Five coaches fired after failing to reach playoffs

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The Washington Redskins, Minnesota Vikings, Detroit Lions and Tampa Bay Buccaneers fired their coaches Monday after enduring miserable NFL seasons, joining the Cleveland Browns in seeking new direction in 2014.

The Browns began the sacking parade on Sunday dumping Rob Chudzinski after one season just hours after Cleveland lost 20-7 to Pittsburgh to conclude a 4-12 campaign.

On Monday, the axe fell for Washington's Mike Shanahan after a 3-13 season, Detroit's Jim Schwartz following a 7-9 campaign and Minnesota's Leslie Frazier after the Vikings went 5-10 with one draw.

The Buccaneers, owned by the same Glazer family that owns English Premier League side Manchester United, went one better, firing both general manager Mark Dominik and coach Greg Schiano after a 4-12 season that began with eight losses in a row and ended with three defeats in a row.

Dominik had been with the team since 1995 and spent the past five years as general manager, hiring Schiano before the 2012 season. But the Bucs went 11-21 in his tenure.

Schwartz took over the Lions in 2009 after the team endured the worst season in NFL history at 0-16. He finished five seasons with a 29-51 mark.

The Vikings surrendered a league-high 480 points this season and went 0-7 with a draw on the road, the only NFL club not to win at least once this season away from home.

Nos ta bisando año 2013 ayo, un año cu ta laga hopi positivismo atras y ta yena nos cu hopi entusiasmo pa conhuntamente sigui traha na bienestar di nos pais.

**Feliz y prospero 2014
pa henter comunidad.**

Otmar E. Oduber
Minister di Turismo, Transporte, Sector Primario y Cultura

NFL: League says refs' blunder helped Chargers make playoffs

NEW YORK (AFP) - An officiating blunder helped decide the final American Conference playoff spot, the NFL admitted in a statement Monday.

A four-month quest for a playoff berth came down to the final seconds of the last regular-season game for the San Diego Chargers, who needed a win or draw with Kansas City to qualify or lose the spot to the Pittsburgh Steelers.

With eight seconds remaining in the fourth quarter on

Sunday at San Diego, the Chiefs' Ryan Succop attempted a 41-yard field goal that went wide of the left upright.

But the Chargers' defensive unit lined up improperly on the play, video evidence showed after the game, although the violation went unnoticed on the field.

"On the play, San Diego lined up with seven men on one side of the snapper. This should have been penalized as an illegal formation by the de-

fense," the NFL said in a statement.

No more than six players can be on the line on either side of the center when the ball is snapped under NFL rules.

"The penalty for illegal formation by the defense is a loss of five yards," the NFL said. Had the correct call been made, Succop would have had a second chance at the winning kick in regulation.

Instead, the game went into overtime and the Chargers won

27-24 to capture the final playoff spot. They will play a first-round matchup Sunday at Cincinnati.

Had the Chiefs won, the Pittsburgh Steelers would have been playing at Cincinnati instead.

Steelers coach Mike Tomlin said Monday that he was watching the game on television and noticed the illegal formation.

Asked how he reacted when the violation went uncalled and

the kick missed, Tomlin said: "I'll leave that between myself, my sons and our basement."

Tomlin added that the Steelers have only themselves to blame for missing the playoffs after an 8-8 season.

Tomlin, a member of the NFL's competition committee that considers changes to improve the sport, also said the league needs to consider making referees full-time league employees.